

Joint Commissioning News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 1999

Community Reference Group (CRG)

Chair - Jan Myers

The Community Reference Group has just produced its **annual work plan**, which will inform the structure and process of its work over the next year. Working to improve the quality and effectiveness of health, social care, environmental and housing provision, the Community Reference Group underpins the work of the Partnership Development Team.

Working at this **strategic level**, the Community Reference Group aims to **ensure that users, carers and voluntary organisations can become involved in Joint Commissioning in ways which are appropriate to their needs**. Part of this is to look at good practice ideas of involving people in creative ways - more than merely attending a series of committee meetings or filling in a consultation questionnaire. Ways which will help to combat consultation fatigue and will effectively contribute to how our services are planned and commissioned.

Another important part of this is to **identify gaps** too. For this we also rely on **feedback from you - your experience of the commissioning process** whether

you are part of a commissioning group, part of a care group or a service user and/or carer wanting to find out more about what's happening or how you can get involved.

... we rely on feedback from you - your experience of the commissioning process...

If you would like to receive a copy of the **work plan**, please **contact the Partnership Development Team**. We'd be pleased to receive any comments and feedback on the priorities and work areas. The Community Reference Group is currently planning a **joint conference with the Health In Your Environment Forum and the Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group in June**. This will provide another opportunity for you to get to know more about the commissioning process and the user, carer and voluntary and community involvement in it and to get involved directly in the Community Reference Group. **Watch this newsletter for details** or contact Maggy or Laurence at the Partnership Development Team or any one of the current active participants of the Community Reference Group.

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"WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR HEALTH"

A joint conference for voluntary groups hosted by
the Community Reference Group,
the Health in Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum
and the Black and Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group

Thursday June 17 1999

**Did YOU know users, carers and
voluntary organisations are involved in
commissioning health and social services
across Nottinghamshire?**

**Are the needs of YOUR communities
being met?**

**How can WE improve the health and
environment of people in the
Nottingham Health District in
1999/2000?**

This conference gives YOU the
opportunity to discuss Joint
Commissioning and to explore how
WE can improve the health and
environment of everyone in the
Nottingham Health Area.

**At The Nottinghamshire Deaf Society,
Forest Rd West**

**Contact person: Laurence Quirk
Telephone: 0115 988 1710
E-mail: pdteamrx@proweb.co.uk**

Programme

- ♦ Welcome
- ♦ Speakers
- ♦ CRG AGM
- ♦ Mind Map
- ♦ Buffet
- ♦ Speaker
- ♦ HIYE annual
consultation
- ♦ Mind Map
- ♦ Speaker
- ♦ Summing Up



Full details of the conference to published soon. Places are limited
and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Editorial – Maggy Topley, Partnership Development Officer

We have tried to make this edition a bit more “user-friendly” and encourage contributors to report on the issues **you** are interested in. This is in response to feedback from many of you that you wanted to know more regarding the actions being taken to collect **your views** and connect with **your groups** to help shape service provision. I hope you will find the articles in this newsletter paying much more attention to user/carer involvement from now on.

From the Partnership Development Team’s (PDT’s) point of view, I can report that with the backing of the Community Reference Group (CRG), we are beginning to have some impact on the work of the Joint Commissioning Groups (JCGs) and there are many more examples than mentioned here, of actions taken by the JCGs to engage users and carers in their work. However, it is just as important for issues to be brought to the attention of JCGs by users and carers and the community groups representing them. One or two of the existing community networks and forums are currently holding discussions about ways in which they become a recognised focal point for 2-way communication with particular JCGs. We hope to be able to carry more news about these discussions next time.

Meanwhile, please remember that you do not have to wait for a JCG to approach you. If you think there are “consumer issues” that ought to be on the agenda of one or more of the JCGs, please talk to the PDT, or any member of the CRG, about how to take this forward.

Nottingham Health Action Group (NHAG) and The Health In Your Environment Voluntary Sector Forum (HIYE) – Helen Thompson

HAZ, HImP, HIB, LA21, NHAG and HIYE? What have all these initials got in common? Well they are all broadly concerned with improving the health and environment of people living in the Nott’m Health Area.

HAZ stands for Health Action Zone, HIMP for the Health Improvement Programme, HIB is the Health Initiatives Budget and LA21 – Local Agenda 21 – a programme of action for sustainable development.

Nottingham Health Action Group is the multi-sector body that considers and contributes to all of these areas of work, although Local Agenda 21 is co-ordinated through local authorities generally speaking. In this case NHAG contributes to the work of the Local Agenda 21 as adapted for the Nott’m Health Area.

HIYE is the voluntary sector forum which puts forward a voluntary sector member, currently Richard Eddleston from the Real World Coalition, to the Nott’m Health Action Group and thereby has a voice on it. The ideas put forward by the Forum are listened to and, where possible, put into practice. This is not a talking shop.

The article in the last newsletter provided some useful information about the HImP and HAZ and since then the **final drafts of the HAZ and HImP have been produced for year one. Pauline Davis is the new Health Action Zone Director at the Health Authority and has chaired NHAG since its launch. Pauline can be reached via the Health Authority, address included on page 7.**

Health Initiatives Budget is a fund allocated by the Health Authority to support projects that aim to improve the health of people living in the Nott’m Health Area as related to work set out in “Our Healthier Nation” and the Local Agenda 21 Health Strategy.

Application packs for this fund will be available from 12 April, the deadline is likely to be the beginning of June 1999, with decisions made in July. Contact Katherine Jones on 0115 912 3344 extension 49405, for an application pack.

For more information about HIB or to contribute to the work of HIYE please contact Helen Thompson on 0115 912 3344 extension 49419 for an informal chat.

Learning Disabilities

– Maggie Harty (Chair) & Wendy Lippmann

On 11 February 1999 we held a **stakeholders conference** at the Albert Hall called "**Positive Futures**". This was attended by Service Users, Carers and Representatives from the statutory and independent sectors. The conference was opened by the Health Authority, Councillor Betty Higgins, Chair of the City Social Services Committee and Malcolm Dillon, Assistant Director of Notts Social Services Department.

Our planning has been greatly enriched by the users and carers over the past few months.

The purpose of the day was to **share the feedback** we have had so far in the development of our 5-year plan/strategy for services and to check out that we are moving in the right direction.

The conference delegates worked in **small groups to help plan** what services should look like in 5 years' time.

Everyone worked very hard and we were **most**

impressed with the enthusiasm and energy so many people showed. The JCG now has to write a **plan that reflects everything we have learned so far** and to make sure that plan is user friendly.

This is a very exciting time for the JCG for Learning Disability Services. **Our planning has been greatly enriched by the users and carers over the past few months.** We now need to make sure that we continue this consultation on an on-going basis.

Older People

Chair – Caroline Jordan

Work continues around the development of the **Joint Investment Plan** and Rehabilitation and Recuperation Action Plan in response to EL97(62), Better Services for Vulnerable People. The final plan should be agreed by March 1999.

Members of the JCG **met with voluntary and patient organisations** in October 1998 to start to explore how users and carers can be engaged in the Joint Commissioning process. The overwhelming view was that **much consultation has already taken place** and that this should be explored before embarking on any new process. To this end members of the JCG are **reviewing a variety of consultation documents** and are beginning to map services and organisations working with older people.

Finally, the JCG is pleased to announce that it is in the process of advertising for **Joint Commissioning Manager on a two-year fixed term contract to support the work of the JCG.**

Nottingham Community Care Plan

The draft Community Care Plan for Nottingham is now out for **public consultation**. This joint plan between Social Services, Housing and Nottingham Health Authority outlines the **strategic direction for Community Care** for the next three years. A consultation took place March 24th with the view to collect all comments on the plan by the end of March. However, it may be possible to include some **late comments** if received in early April.

Contact **Paul Mansfield, 915 7038** or **Rina Sherry 915 7040** at City of Nottingham Social services Policy and Planning Department, with your comments or for a copy of the plan.

**Substance Misuse
Chair – Lynne Wynstanley**

The JCG for Substance Misuse has been working with COMPASS (substance misuse street service) to develop a **more informative method of monitoring and collecting information** which will help to identify whether the service is meeting the needs of users and carers. This will entail looking at **how the social and psychological well being of users and carers is being affected**. In true NHS jargon this is sometimes referred to as outcome measures.

This information will help to inform the service provider and the JCG on how to **shape the future** provision of services. It will also help to **identify gaps** in service provision.

This method of collecting information will be **rolled out to other providers** of substance misuse services in the district of Nott'm.

..... how the social and psychological well being of users and carers is being affected ...

**Mental Health
Chair - Jean Grant**

We are pleased to pass on good news of successful applications to Joint Finance as follows:

- A crisis house & telephone helpline, eventually linked to NHS Direct. More work will be done on the service specification before contracting.
- Family First's existing Grant Aid will be increased to develop an outreach counselling and advice service for young Black and Asian people. This will assist with access to mental health services and provide ongoing support where appropriate. A needs assessment is being carried out by black consultant, Dorothy Dixon-Barrow, involving voluntary groups, service users and carers in focus groups to help develop the service. A steering group consisting predominantly of black people will provide continuing advice and support.
- A joint post with the JCG for Learning Disability, looking at the need for supported employment for people with learning disability and mental health difficulties

Strategy development – working groups are being formed around issues from the Stakeholders event. They are as follows:

Issue	Lead Person	Contact Number
Homelessness, dual diagnosis and complex need	Bill Peacham	969 1400 ext. 49130
Quality of acute in-patient facilities	Clive Duckworth	9249924 ext. 49130
First point of contact	Lynne Wynstanley	9123344 ext. 49316
Support services for Black and Asian communities	Louise Dyer/Jean Grant	c/o 9151076
Day/Employment/Leisure interface	Jean Grant/Bill Peacham	
Risk Management & mentally disordered offenders	David Levell	9601300 ext. 49104
Care Management	Phil Bowell	915 1085
Housing Options	Amanda Schofield	9157412

The groups will report back by the end of May, to inform the spending of the additional budget allocation from the Modernisation Fund and the Mental Health Grant.

HIV & AIDS Chair Sally Savage

HIV & AIDS User and Carer "Get Together"

On the 26th of February 1999 we held an informal "Get

Together" for people with HIV/AIDS and their carers. Following a buffet tea and refreshments, **Dr Richard Slack** (Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at the Health Authority) gave an **informal talk** covering a **range of issues and details of the current funding structure**. An **open discussion** with members of the Health Authority, Community Care Assessment and Management Team, The Health Shop, The Partnership Development Team and The Potters House Trust **enabled those present to talk about current services and consulting users and carers**. The aim of the

evening was to **seek views on the current services provided and highlight any gaps in service provision**.

Amongst the people attending were members of the **Self Help Group Positive Attitude**, this group provides a forum for people infected or affected by HIV and AIDS to meet, giving

... an informal talk covering a range of issues

support and information. Some discussions during the evening centred around expanding this group and suggestions were given as to how this could be achieved.

User and Carer consultation is an ongoing process and one of our main aims will be to encourage more people to participate in forthcoming consultations.

Children & Families Chair - Sally Savage

In response to the work undertaken by **CHILDPLAN** on a strategy for children with disabilities, the Children & Families Joint Commissioning Group has started to consider areas of service which could be **improved by joint commissioning**.

In addition a workshop has been arranged for the afternoon of **19th April 1999** to consider how this year's **Health Action**

*Health Action
Zone workshop -
19th April 1999*

Zone work should be implemented, and how it could be developed for 2000/2001. The Children & Families JCG will be **very involved in this workshop**, as will representatives from other agencies within the City and the County, both from the voluntary and statutory sector.

Physical & Sensory Impairment Chair Theresa Shaw

In November the JCG **met with representatives** from the Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind, the Nottinghamshire Deaf Society and Social Services Visual Impairment Teams, linked to the BATS organisation. This was an **introductory meeting** to find out about each other's work and discuss gaps in statutory sector service provision.

The JCG made the **decision to co-opt user/carer involvement for specific pieces of work it undertakes when appropriate**. The Partnership Development Team has begun to compile a database of Physical & Sensory Impairment linked user/carer/voluntary sector organisations on the JCG's behalf.

The JCG had a time out in January to finalise its work plan up until March 2000.

Key **national** priorities for the JCG:

- Production of a Joint Investment Plan
- Development of a Strategy
- Networking

Key **local** priorities for the JCG:

- Equipment Services
- Development of pathway for funding complex care packages

The JCG will continue to monitor its Joint Finance Schemes.

...decision to co-opt user/carer involvement for specific pieces of work.....

Community Reference Group Contact list

Contact name	Organisation	Telephone Number
Jan Myers – Chair	SELF HELP Nott'm	0115 911 1662
Jon North – Vice-Chair	NAVO	01623 651 170
Adrian Taylor	British Red Cross	0115 988 1710
Julia Barker	Carers' Federation	0115 985 1111
Katrina Phillips	Community Health Council	0115 960 2206
Jessie Woodhouse	Community Health Council/JCC	0115 960 2206
Jane Sterck	CVS Rushcliffe	0115 981 6988
Richard Thomas	MENCAP	0115 956 1130
Rosemary Renouf	Mental Health Forum (Vol. sector)	0115 928 1502
Maria Ward	Nott'm Black Initiative	0115 948 0481
Andrew Fry	Notts Hospice	0115 960 6265
Carola Jones	Notts Rural Community Council	01636 815 267
Maggy Topley	Partnership Development Team	0115 988 1710
Met Hatto	Stapleford Volunteer Bureau	0115 949 1175

Contact details for Joint Commissioning

Joint Commissioning Group	Contact name	Address/Phone
Children & Families	Sally Savage	Nott'm Health Authority 1 Standard Court Park Row Nott'm, NG1 6GN Telephone 0115 912 3344
Substance Misuse	Lynne Wynstanley	
HIV & AIDS	Sally Savage	
Physical & Sensory Impairment	Theresa Shaw	
Older People	Caroline Jordan	
Learning Disability	Maggie Harty	Nott'm City Social Services Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent Bilborough Nott'm, NG8 3DH Telephone 0115 915 5500
Mental Health	Jean Grant	
Black & Ethnic Minorities Advisory Group	Al Kestenbaum	Notts County Social Services County Hall West Bridgford Nott'm, NG2 7AB Telephone 0115 977 4016
Joint Housing Commissioning Group	Sheila Hyde	Broxtowe Borough Housing Department Broadgate House, Humber Rd Beeston Nott'm, NG9 9EF Telephone 0115 917 7777

Diary

Date	Meeting	Start Time
April		
Tuesday 13th	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Wednesday 14th	Health in Your Environment Vol. Sector Forum	2.30 p.m.
Monday 19th	Health Action Zones Children & Families workshop	2 p.m.
Thursday 22nd	Mental Health JCG	2 p.m.
Wednesday 28th	Learning Disability JCG	1.30 p.m.
Thursday 29th	HIV & AIDS JCG	12.30 p.m.
May		
Tuesday 4th	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Tuesday 11th	Joint Housing Commissioning Group	1..30 p.m.
Wednesday 12th	Nott'm Health Action Group	10 am
Thursday 20th	Mental Health JCG	2 p.m.
Wednesday 26th	Learning Disability JCG	1.30 p.m.
June		
Thursday 10th	Health in Your Environment Vol. Sector Forum	2.30 p.m.
Thursday 17th	Joint CRG, BEMAG and HIYE conference	To be confirmed
Wednesday 23rd	Learning Disability JCG	1.30 p.m.
Thursday 24th	Mental Health JCG	2 p.m.
July		
Monday 5th	Nott'm Health Action Group	10 am
Tuesday 6h	Community Reference Group	2 p.m.
Thursday 8th	Substance Misuse JCG	2 p.m.

On the reverse of this diary we have produced a list of contact numbers and addresses for the Joint Commissioning Groups & the Community Reference Group. If you cannot find the number you want please contact the Partnership Development Team 0115 988 1710